

Commercial and Industrial Buildings,
Bush, Robison and Company Warehouse
60 Main Street
Dubuque
Dubuque County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-160-BG

HABS
IOWA,
31-DUBU,
13-BG -

**PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

Historic American Buildings Survey
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
P.O. Box 25287
Denver Colorado 80225

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Site Location:

60 Main Street
Dubuque, Dubuque County, Iowa
DOT designation: Resource Site No. 5.17
Cadastral grid : SE1/4 NE1/4 S25 T89N R2E
USGS quadrangle: Dubuque South Iowa 7.5'
UTM coordinates: 15.692020.4707140
Lot dimensions : 114.2'x 113:' .30 acre
Lot description: West 1/2 of Lots 9 and
9A of Block 1 of Dubuque
Harbor Company Addition

Present Owner: Iowa Department of Transportation

Present Usage: vacant

Present Condition : fair

Overall Dimensions: 98'x 50'; 2 stories

Orientation : west

Architectural Plan type : 2-story rectangular, open-space warehouse.

Description : Foundation: coursed ashlar limestone perimeter walls with
tooled stone watertable.

Structure : wood frame with brick masonry bearing walls.

Ext. walls: common red brick laid in common bond.

Roof : flat composition roof with brick parapet walls.

Chimneys : brick exterior chimneys integral with party
walls.

Openings : double-hung windows (all original sash removed)
with either brick segmental or semicircular
arch heads (front) or loose lintels (rear),
all with stone lug sills; single-leaf front
entrance door (replaced) with transom and seg-
mental arch head; sectional garage door with
iron I beam lintel on front; similar door with
loose lintel on rear.

Details : modestly corbeled brick courses on front
parapet.

Construction Date : 1878

Architecture Style: 19th Century Functional

Physical History : Early Dubuque businessman John D. Bush constructed this
two-story brick block along with a smaller two-story office building [HABS No.
IA-160-BH] adjacent north for Bush, Robison and Company. Total recorded cost
for the two: \$15,000. In 1886 the McFadden Coffee and Spice Company took over
the adjacent office building from Bush and after the turn of the century
acquired this warehouse from the Charles Mitchell agricultural implement firm.
Bush, Robison had ceased operations several years before.) McFadden continued

to occupy these buildings until moving to a new structure [HABS No. IA-160-H] on First Street. Since that time this building has housed such businesses as the National Butter Company, the Ferguson Manufacturing Company, which fabricated steel tanks, the White Front Feed and Hatchery and, most recently, Farber and Sons Warehouse. The building has maintained its overall form throughout this extended service, but virtually all of the windows and doors have been altered to varying degrees.

Significance: Consisting of Bush, John H. Robison and Edward L. Reynoldson, Bush, Robison and Company were early Dubuque dealers in grain, seed and wool. Edward Reynoldson had started the business in 1863 and later joined with the two other men to form Bush, Robison and Company. As a successful grain dealer, real estate speculator and sash-and-door manufacturer, John D. Bush was a prominent figure in the early Dubuque business community. Additionally, he served four terms as alderman and two [1878-83] as mayor of Dubuque. This utilitarian building is thus significant for its association with one of the city's noteworthy early businessmen. With its corbeled brick cornice, segmental upper floor windows and full-width first storefront opening, it is representative of the 19th Century Functional structures erected in Dubuque's wholesale grocery and produce district on lower Main Street.

References: Dubuque City Directories: 1857 - 1970.
Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1879, 1884, 1891, 1909, 1972.
Iowa State Gazetteer and Business Directory: 1882-1918.
Dubuque County Assessment Record: 3-17-10-6.
Iowa Department of Transportation, "Draft Environmental
Impact Statement - Cultural Resources Assessment."
*The Industries of Dubuque: Her Relations as a Trade Center,
Business Houses and Manufacturing Establishments*
(Dubuque: J.M. Elstner and Company, 1887), page 108.
Dubuque Daily Herald: 3 January 1879; 4 August 1886.

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